

Brethren Evangelist

"I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life."—Jesus

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Editorial

What the Publication Board Wants

Just what we need, not any more ; our wants are few, our needs many. Just now we want 500 persons each of whom will pay \$1.00 to send the EVANGELIST three months to *four* of his friends. Now are there not 500 members in the Brethren church sufficiently interested in the mission of our church paper to pay one dollar each to have it sent three months to persons whom he may designate ? That is at the rate of 25 cents for the three months, and is a special offer. What will it mean ? *It will mean 2,000 papers to 2,000 persons for three months, and that will mean 8,000 new readers of the Brethren Evangelist for a period of three months.* This proposition ought to appeal to our people and bear fruit. Here is an opportunity to do missionary work in a very practical way. If you can not pay for four, then pay for three, or two, or one. Send a one dollar bill to the Brethren Publication Board with the names and addresses of four persons to whom you want the paper sent. The Board will do the rest.

As a special offer to new subscribers the EVANGELIST will be sent from the time the subscription is received to the end of the year 1902 for \$1.50. This is an opportunity for agents to get new subscribers. Further announcement on page 14, first column.

The Plain Gospel

When Daniel Webster was in his New England home, he was in the habit of going twice of a Sunday, to hear a country preacher in a small wayside chapel. When one of his friends expressed surprise that he should display more interest in the rustic exhorter than in the brilliant pulpit orators of Washington, he replied that the Washington preachers preached to Daniel Webster the statesman, but the country parson to Daniel Webster the sinner.

Primarily the church has to deal, not with a hungry mind, but with a hungry heart ; and eloquence, philosophy, art, are but husks to the man who feels that he is a sinner, and needs a Savior.

To this hungry soul, what shall we offer, the melodious winds of brilliant rhetoric ? the gilded chaff of sonorous periods ? the empty beauty of an aurora ? Will they heal his sickness ? Will they rest his weariness ? Will they cheer his loneliness ? Will they "comfort him as a mother comforteth her child ?"

Perhaps we would be greatly startled if we knew how many millions are hungering for the plain gospel of Jesus, the personal Savior, the intercessor, the propitiation for our sins ; the Brother, the Friend.

Men interpret the world about them by the pressure of that need which is most immediate and most insistent. Thus it happens that so much of the world's thought and energy is taken up by material things, for the demands of the physical nature loudly and unceasingly din in our ears. We must have food and raiment and shelter ; we must provide for a constantly increasing demand for bodily comfort and mental diversion. Inevitable wants are multiplied by imaginary ones ; but one day in the midst of all this confusion of things that perish with the using, we awake with a hunger which the world can not satisfy ; we become conscious of that soul within us which when lost is the Bottomless Pit, but which when saved is the ladder of the skies, and we know then that there is only one thing needful in all the wide rout of nothings ; but one balm of Gilead for innumerable wounds and bruises ; but one Helper for the helpless ; but one Bread for the hungry ; but one garment of righteousness for the naked ; but one Savior for the lost.

Neither with the eloquence of the books nor the learning of the schools, but with the eloquence of the heart, preach Jesus to a lost world. Preach the love of Jesus that overcomes hate ; the humility of Jesus that overcomes pride, the gentleness, the purity, the unselfishness, the earnestness, the patience of Jesus, that overcomes all the opposites of these virtues in unregenerate human nature. Preach the atonement he accomplished on the cross, when the Lamb of God took away the sin of the world.

There is nothing else that can reach the heart of man like the preaching of this Jesus of the Bible. Would you solve the secret of power ? Preach Jesus. Would you win souls ? Preach Jesus. Would you comfort the sorrowing and lift up those who are cast down ? Preach Jesus. Would you lighten the burdens and ease the yokes of this world's heavy bondage ? Preach Jesus. Would you make sorrowing men and women to make gladness and rejoicing ? Preach Jesus. Would you construct the splendid temple of character out of the ruins of human weakness ? Preach Jesus. Would you lift up a standard against the overflowing wickedness of the world ? Preach Jesus. Would you make the desert of the soul's desolation blossom with roses of beauty and hope ? Preach Jesus. Would you lighten the dark valley of the shadow with the alone glory of the resurrection unto everlasting life ? Preach the Jesus who went down into that tomb for us all, who conquered death for every one, who came up again out of the eternal gloom, leaving there the lamp of his love to lighten our journey into the mysteries of the world beyond. Preach only this plain gospel of Jesus, the personal Savior, and you will not lack sheaves in the gathering of the world's harvest. What will it profit you if your ministry is beautiful, but barren ?